METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SHARING COMMON DATA OBJECTS

AMONG MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS IN A CLIENT DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is software architecture and method for sharing data objects among multiple

5   applications in a client device. The architecture includes a server process in the client device for

processing a template, such as a SHTML template for the Extended Markup Language (XML),

based on a template identifier value received from a user application. Each of multiple

applications has a template. Each template identifies a series of objects identified by tag values,

such as XML entities, that are to be incorporated into a display page. A database of objects, such

10   as a database of XML entities identified by tag values, is maintained that contains data objects

for the applications. An update process periodically establishes a communication link with a

remote server and requests download of a data document containing content data corresponding

to at least a portion of several of the templates. The data document is parsed into the database of

objects based on the structure of the data document, which generally conforms to a data type

15   definition. When the server process processes different templates that reference the same data

object, it will retrieve the data object from the database. Each template may then be rendered

into a page of output data for display to a user. The architecture and method according to the

present invention thus permit data objects to be shared by multiple applications and to be

automatically updated. Each time a data object is updated, the data will be current for each user

20   application that references the data object.